

ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

February 2017

TDC RENEGES OVER MANSTON AND NOW DANCES TO THE DEVELOPER'S TUNE

In 2015, TDC agreed and approved a new Local Plan, identifying sufficient housing developments to meet Government targets on the Island. This retained the Manston Airport site as an operational Airport.

They have now embarked on a Consultation Process for a revised Local Plan which, among other things, proposes the redesignation of Manston Airport as Mixed Use Settlement (i.e. 2,500 houses).

The justification for this U-turn (and complete reversal of the promises made at the last District Council elections) seems to be a consultant's report which suggests that Manston will never be financially viable. Whether the outcome of the Brexit vote was incorporated in this analysis is not clear, but the current government have frequently gone on record as saying that the UK is open for business - but both Heathrow and Gatwick are operating at near maximum capacity with passenger traffic, and air-freight capacity is at a premium until expansion at either (or both) airports is brought onstream - and where is there an airport with a surplus runway capacity, ready and waiting to meet the shortfall in the interim?

Furthermore, there are two potential operators who are anxious to run freight operations out of Manston - one of whom claims to have a pot of £200m to invest in the airport.

You have access to the new proposals, and can make your views known online, via the Consultation Portal

All comments must be submitted by 5.00pm on 17th March 2017.

ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

Winners for the Month of February 2017 were:

Member no.152 who won 1st prize of £20.50

Member no. 109, who won 2nd prize of £12.30 and

Member no. 84, who won 3rd prize of £8.20

£41.00 was donated to the Village Hall funds

The next draw will be on Wednesday 1st March 2017. Should you have any questions, or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne on 01843 840901

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

Sat. 11 th Feb.	2.30 for 3.00pm	AHS Valentine Afternoon Tea
Mon 20 th Feb	3.00 - 8.00 pm	KCC PUBLIC CONSULTATION - PARKWAY STN
Tues 28 th Feb	2.00pm	PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Sat 18 th Mar	6.30 for 7.00pm	Social Evening, Dinner and Quiz

RELEVANT INFORMATION

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Contact Iris Osborne, 840901, for information and updates for NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

CCTV CAMERAS

Please remember to report any accident or incident between Dilnot Lane and Margate Hill to the Parish Council on 844706. We can use CCTV footage for police attention.

REFUSE COLLECTION - MONDAYS

Refuse (black) & waste food	Recycling (blue), red bag & waste food
	13 th February
20 th February	27 th February
6 th March	

Ring TDC, **577115**, to arrange collection if you are unable to put your bins out.
Or Ring the 'Recycle for Thanet' line on **577727** with any queries you may have.

REGULAR VILLAGE HALL DIARY DATES

Monday afternoons (term time) - Pam's People

First Tuesday evening - AHS meeting

All other Tuesday evenings, 6-7pm - Dance Fitness Class

Alternate Wednesday evenings - Life Drawing Art Group

Every Thursday evening - Art Group

Art Group Website: www.acolartgroup.org/

Monthly, Saturdays, 10am-4pm - Phoenix Quilters.

(Check hall calendar or email Sheila.Bransfield@btinternet.com for dates)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Sat 11th February, 1pm - AHS Valentine Tea (till evening)

Mon 20th February, 3-8pm - KCC PUBLIC CONSULTATION, PARKWAY STATION

Tues 28th February, 2pm - Parish Council Meeting

Sat 18th March, 7pm - Village Quiz (courtesy of Vera and Charlie George)

Sat 1st April, 2pm - AHS Spring Show

Mon 3rd April, 2pm - Parish Council Meeting

Mon 10th April, 6pm - Acol Village Hall Management Committee AGM

Sun 16th April, all day - AHS Late Spring Show

THUR 4TH MAY, ALL DAY - KCC ELECTION

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE

Ring Parish Council on Mondays (9am-5pm) on 844706, or the day after a Bank Holiday, or the Clerk any day (9am-5pm) on 832243.

Please ring these numbers if you have problems and do not know who to contact.

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 2PM ON TUESDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2017.

Sheila Bransfield

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Village Voice

Following a massive show of indifference as to whether to continue to reproduce the Minster Surgery Newsletter in full, it has been decided that for the time being I will reprint only the relevant and important matters - Major changes, Missed appointments, Surgery Closure Days etc.

Minster Surgery

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR and RAFFLE WINNERS

One prize is STILL UNCLAIMED which is "YELLOW 983" with the only contact details of "Howell" and an unknown mobile number.

FUND RAISING PROJECT - TARGET ACHIEVED!

We are delighted to say we achieved our target and were therefore able to purchase additional equipment to that which was originally identified - which is fantastic!

SURGERY TRAINING DAYS 2015

Please note that the surgery will close at 12.00 Mid-day on the following days:

Wednesday 22nd February, Thursday 30th March and Wednesday 26th April

Should you need to see a Doctor when the surgery is closed, please call the "NHS 111 Service" via the normal surgery number 821333 where you will be transferred automatically, or you can call direct on "111", to receive "non-urgent" confidential health advice and information. For Urgent/Life threatening issues, dial "999" as normal.

"WALK FOR LIFE" ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

The surgery has now launched this programme, and are inviting people to come and join us in a walk around the local area for about an hour or so, with the aim of meeting people and becoming more active. Our next walk is scheduled for Thursday 9th February at 10.30. Weather permitting of course! Please contact the surgery for further information or you can just meet us all in the surgery at 10.30.

MISSED APPOINTMENTS

Last month GP figures greatly improved - "ONLY" 34 PATIENTS DID NOT ATTEND THEIR DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT!

BUT 82 PATIENTS DID NOT ATTEND THEIR NURSES APPOINTMENT!

So, that's STILL 116 MISSED AND WASTED APPOINTMENTS.

PATIENT GROUP MEETING

If you have any issues you would like to raise at our meeting in March, or require further information on any of the above, then please contact MARY HODGSON on 842764.

<p>ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY</p>  <p>VALENTINE AFTERNOON TEA</p> <p>RAFFLE Saturday 11th February QUIZ In Village Hall 2.30 for 3.00 £5.00 per head including refreshments (Entry by Ticket Only)</p> <p>To book tickets, phone: Phyllis 845546 Nancy 846364</p>	<p>Social Evening With Dinner and Quiz</p> <p>Tables of 8 please</p> <p>Saturday 18th March 6.30pm for 7.00pm</p> <p><i>In aid of Acol Village Hall Fund</i></p> <p>Admission £9</p> <p>Phone 01843 848640 Vera or Charlie</p>
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ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Acol Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16th January 2017 in the Village Hall, Acol, at 4.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Miss Bransfield (Chairman), D Hayfield, J Inchley and Mrs I Osborne
Also Present: Cllrs Crow-Brown (TDC) and Messrs. Mounter and Ratcliffe, KCC
(Parkway Development)

51. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Hall (APC), Gregory and Grove (TDC), Latchford (KCC), Community Warden Gander and PCSO Raisbeck.

52. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 28th November 2016, subject to an amendment to the minute numbering, be approved and signed by the Chairman.

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman, Cllr. Hayfield and Mrs. Osborne disclosed non pecuniary interests in the tree surgery and Church Cottages in minute no. 57, Planning applications.

54. REPORT OF THE POLICE AND COMMUNITY WARDENS

No officers were in attendance to report but the Chairman read the report of PCSO Raisbeck in respect of matters relating to the Village. There were no calls to the police from Acol (01.12.2016-15.01.17), but there were several incidents of poaching and fly tipping bordering the village. Speed monitoring indicated that the majority of road users are abiding by the speed limit.

The Clerk to ask Craig if he knows the whereabouts of the hand-held speed monitoring equipment.

55. REPORT FROM KCC ON THE PARKWAY STATION PROPOSALS AND THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS TO BE ADOPTED.

Council received a presentation by Messrs. David Mounter, Project Manager, and Joe Ratcliffe, Transport Strategy Manager. They outlined the procedures for the forthcoming consultation period, taking place between 25th January and 19th March. Members noted that the Acol Village Hall had been booked for 20th February 2017 between 2 and 8 p.m. for a public viewing.

The Chairman asked what road improvements were planned and highlighted the unacceptable volumes of traffic through Acol, which will increase with the Parkway Station. A new road is urgently required, by way of extending Columbus Avenue.

56. LITTER

Villager Richard Steel set out his concerns at the amount of litter within the village and outlined his intention to form a litter-picking group to tidy up the village.

RESOLVED: That (A) the Clerk will enquire at Minster and Birchington to ascertain their procedures, (B) the initiative be publicised in the Village Voice, with a view to (C) setting up a litter-collection group and (D) the Clerk to purchase appropriate equipment required.

57. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Chairman reported that approval had been given for tree surgery needed in the front garden of Orchard Cottage.

Cllr Mrs Osborne expressed concern that the Parish Council had not been advised of the new planning proposals in respect of 2 Church Cottages. Adjacent residents had submitted objections, but other villagers and the Parish Council were unable to respond. The Chairman has contacted TDC's Planning Department to point out their omission, with no response, and the Clerk will seek an explanation from TDC.

58. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported upon:

Volunteers

Thanks are due to Bob Lawrence and Norman Chidwick for repairing the fence on the recreation field and Bob's work on the fence around the commemorative oak tree. The tree has grown so big that a fence is no longer needed. Bob is making a post to display the information plaque.

More thanks to Bob, Norman and Cllr Hayfield for taking down the Christmas tree and decorations, as well as everyone's efforts for putting them up in time for the first Christmas party.

Website

Apologies for not posting the Agenda on the website. KCC have changed the website again and it is very poor quality and difficult to use. An alternative provider or facility will be investigated.

BT Kiosk

TDC are instigating its removal and they have been sent all previous correspondence and documents confirming its retention. They have confirmed receipt, but not yet responded.

Southern Water

Following the attendance of S Water personnel at the meeting arranged by Sir Roger Gale MP on 5th December, no response was received, despite promises to do so. Consequently, an official complaint has been lodged with the Consumer Council for Water, following advice from Sir Roger. An acknowledgement has been received and their response awaited.

Kent Highways

There is another list of faults in our road surfaces that will be sent to Paul Valek.

Lord-Lieutenant of Kent's Civic Service

The Parish Council received invitation to the annual service at Rochester Cathedral on 14th March, but no Councillor was able to attend. The Chairman will respond accordingly.

59. RECREATION GROUND

Cllr. Hayfield reported that the children's play area was being refurbished.

60. CCTV CAMERAS WITHIN THE VILLAGE

The cameras had recorded 2 traffic related incidents within the Village.

61. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had no further matter to report upon.

62. FINANCIAL MATTERS/BUDGET/PRECEPT

The Clerk reported upon draft budget proposals for the year 2017/18. Members were also advised of the predicted balances at 1 April 2017.

RESOLVED: That (A) That the budget as amended and in the sum of £4,380.00 (as attached to the minutes) be approved and submitted to the District Council for approval; and

(B) the anticipated bank balance at 1 April 2017 in the sum of £8,222.15 be noted.

63. REPORT OF COUNCILLOR CROW-BROWN (TDC)

Cllr Crow-Brown: (i) New Homes Bonus – Government had indicated that there would be a cut to the new house bonus payments in years 4 & 5 of the scheme, (ii) TDC had appointed a new Cleansing Manager who was introducing new measures to combat illegal parking and fly tipping. To date 17,000 enforcement tickets had been issued; and (iii) Armed Forces initiative – the Chairman of TDC would be attending an event in Chatham and it was expected that the armed forces reserves would be moving to Manston.

64. MATTERS FOR REPORT BY MEMBERS

Cllr. Hayfield - no further matter for report.

Cllr. Inchley – no further matter for report.

Cllr. Mrs. Osborne – investigations were being carried out to refurbish the Village Hall kitchen.

65. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting would be held at 2pm on Tuesday 28th February 2017, followed by a further meeting at 2pm on Monday 3rd April, when a date will be fixed for the Annual Parish Assembly and Parish Council AGM in May.

Time concluded: 17.45

KCC CONSULTATION - PARKWAY STATION

The only thing worse than having one Council Consultation is having two, both from KCC, at the same time!

The Proposed Revisions to the Local Plan as they relate to Manston Airport will generate much opposition from well established organisations and lobby groups.

The Parkway Station, however, while it may benefit Thanet as a whole, will seriously impact upon Acol and the lives of every resident. Such a threat needs everyone to respond individually, to express their objection to the proposed access routes from the Northern coastal strip (Margate, Westgate, Birchington) to Cliffesend. The expectation that such traffic would use the A28 to reach the St Nicholas roundabout and then use the A299 to get to the proposed Parkway site when a perfectly viable "rat run" through Acol exists surely needs to be challenged vigorously? The volume of traffic through our village has already reached unacceptable levels and a new station at Cliffesend will just bring more misery to our lives.

KCC needs to be reminded that road access needs improving, by way of EXTENDING COLUMBUS AVENUE.

Please try to pop in to see the Presentation in the hall on 20th February, 3 - 8 pm. All relevant information will be available, including how to respond.

Sheila Bransfield

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Editors Note:

PLEASE PASS ON THIS EDITION OF VILLAGE VOICE to any friends from outside the village who might be interested in knowing what is going on in Acol.

Non-residents of Acol can become subscribers to the Village Voice at the cost of £7.50 for 12 editions, the charge covers the cost of printing and posting to a nominated address.

Advertising

For a box advertisement of about 8cm x 9cm the cost is £10 for inclusion in 3 editions, £15 for 6 editions and £25 for 12 editions.

Please place contributions to Village Voice in the post box on the wall of the Village Hall (by the main door) or e-mail to villagevoice@btinternet.com.

This edition of Village Voice has not been sponsored.

Should you (or your organisation) wish to sponsor an edition, either in memory of a loved one, to commemorate an event or even from a feeling of civic duty(!), please contact me.

Contributions for the next edition must be received by 5th March 2017.